

## REMARKS

### Summary of the Office Action

Claims 2 – 12 and 17 are indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The drawings stand objected to for allegedly failing to show each and every feature recited in previously presented claim 14.

Paragraph [0049] of the published application stands objected to for an informality.

Claims 1 – 12, 14, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite.

Claims 1, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,206,902 to Kost (“Kost”).

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,755,652 to Gardner (“Gardner”).

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gardner in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,565,484 to McWhirter (“McWhirter”).

### Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 – 12 and 17 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants amend paragraph [0049] of the specification.

Applicants cancel claims 1, 14, and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13 and 15 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants amend claims 2 – 7, and respectfully submit that these amendments introduce no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Accordingly, claims 2 – 12 and 17 are presently pending. Applicants submit that entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because it (a) places the application in prima facie condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment and reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for at least the reasons discussed below.

#### **The Objection to the Drawings**

The drawings stand objected to for allegedly failing to show each and every feature of previously presented claim 14. Applicants hereby cancel claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

#### **The Objection to the Specification**

Paragraph [0049] of the Specification stands objected to for an informality. Applicants have amended paragraph [0049] in accordance with the comments of the Office Action and respectfully request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

**The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1 – 12, 14, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action alleges at page 3 that:

- it is not clear what is meant by “two frame-like supporting plates”;
- there is no clear antecedent basis for “the other supporting plate” in claim 1;
- each and every element of claim 14 is not shown in the drawings; and
- claim 14 fails to comply with the written description requirement.

In response, Applicants have amended the claims to remove any recitation of a “frame-like supporting plate.” Applicants have also amended the claims to recite “first and second table-like supporting plates” to provide clear antecedent basis for the claimed table-like supporting plates.

Applicants also cancel claims 1 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as amended comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the intended scope of the claims, and therefore Applicants do not relinquish any subject matter by these amendments. For at least these reasons, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 1 – 12, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

**The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

While claims 1, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action indicated at the last paragraph of page 6 that claims 2 – 12 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

As discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 – 12 and 17 have been rewritten

to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have also amended claim 2 to rewrite it in independent form to include all the features of independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16, which depends from amended independent claim 2, is now allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 1 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering these rejections moot. For at least these reasons, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 1, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn.

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**CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

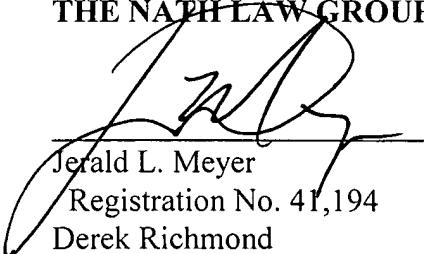
Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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